No Objection to Declassification in Full 2010/12/09 : LOC-HAK-533-1-15-2

DK's Chron

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE/PRINCIPALS ONLY

April 22, 1970

National Security Decision Memorandum 56

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

TO: The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense
The Attorney General
The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Actions in Support of the Cambodian Government

Based on the NSC meeting of April 22, I direct that the following steps be taken:

-- Immediate step-up of U.S. military assistance -- wherever possible through third country channels.

-- Maximum diplomatic effort to enlist assistance by other interested countries.

-- Authorization for specified shallow cross-border attacks against North Vietnamese/VC sanctuaries in Cambodia, to be conducted by GVN forces in division size with cross-border U.S. artillery support. U.S. tactical air support should be planned but made available only on the basis of demonstrated necessity.

-- Air movement of ethnic Cambodian forces now in CIDG units in South Vietnam with their equipment to Phnom Penh as soon as possible. Arrangements should be made for their subsequent logistical support through South Vietnam.

-- Congressional liaison, when appropriate, will be handled by the White House.

The Washington Special Actions Group is designated as the implementing authority for these actions.

Richard Nixon

cc: The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

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